(b) Does not arise.

Complaints Against Officials of Oil Companies

4230. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints against officials of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Ambala and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Panipat during the past few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have investigated the complaints and taken further action accordingly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) to (d) four complaints have been received against the Officers of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Ambala and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Panipat since 1996. In one complaint after investigation penalties were imposed. In two complaints charges were found not proved. One complaint has been recently received in which earlier two complaints wherein charges were not found to be proved have been referred for further action.

Demand and Shortfall of Crude Oil Productivity

4231. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the demand and shortfall of crude oil productivity for refineries in Assam during the last five years and the steps taken to meet this shortfall and future projection;

(b) the list of private parties entrusted with exploration work and reasons for entrusting them, indicating areas entrusted, status of the exercise, amount paid and achievement of each party during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some parties are to the paid heavy compensation during off-season (flood etc);

(d) if so, the monthly compensation made; and

(e) whether oil companies have ceased exploration work in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) (i) The demand and the shortfall of the crude oil for refineries in Assam is given as under :—

(In MMT)

Year	Demand*	Shortfall
1994-95	2.85	0.15
1995-96	2.85	0.23
1996-97	3.85	0.98
1997-98	4.00	0.92
1998-99	4.00	0.95

*Based on full capacity utilisation of refineries.

(ii) The total production of crude oil in Assam would be inadequate to meet the requirements of all the refineries of Assam when the commercial production starts from Numaligarh refinery in 2000-2001.

(iii) Steps taken to increase the production of crude oil and meet the shortfall are as under :—

* Effective reservoir management through infill drilling redistribution of water injection and installation/optimisation of lift mechanism.

* 3-D Seismic Surveys for better reservoir delineation and to identify deeper prospects within existing producing areas.

* Faster development of new discoveries.

* Sand control and water shut off jobs.

* Accelerated exploration for accretion of more crude oil reserve.

* Engagement of consultants for field specific problems.

* State of the art geoscientific studies for basin modelling.

* In addition, steps are being taken to supply imported crude to Bongaigaon refinery.

(iv) The crude oil production during 2001-02 in Assam has been estimated to be around 5.12 MMT.

(b) To boost the oil/gas exploration in Assam, contracts have been signed with private companies for three exploration blocks in Assam namely AAP-ON/94/1 (partly in Arunachal Pradesh), CR-ON-90/1 and AA-ON-07 (partly in Nagaland).

Exploration works in these blocks has not yet commenced.

(c) Exploration activity is an ongoing exercise and is to be carried out as per the terms of the Production Sharing Contracts.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No Sir. Exploration of hydrocarbons is a continuous activity as per the work programme chalked out by the companies.

LPG Dealerships in Lambagaon and Pragpur in H.P.

4232. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 116 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th February, 2000 and state:

(a) the number of applications received for dealership for Pragpur and Lambagaon, Station-wise details; and

(b) what is the criteria for selection of dealers for distributorships for these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) 32 applications were received for the LPG distributorship advertised at Pragpur under 'SC' category and 6 applications were received for the LPG distributorship advertised under Defence (Women) category at Lambagaon.

(b) Selection of distributorships advertised by the Oil Companies is made by the Dealer Selection Board on merit on the basis of interview. Following criteria is laid down for assessing *inter-se* merit of the candidates in the interview:—

(i) Personality, Business ability and Salesmanship;

(ii) Capability to arrange finances;